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"ENDORRED."

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES :

SIRS:—WRIGHT'S 'Domestic Manners and Sentiments' (p. 353) explains "endorred." He says, "*Endore* was the technical term of the kitchen for washing over an article of cookery with yolks of eggs, or any other liquid, to give a shiny appearance to its exterior when cooked." The word is often found in bills of fare.

CHARLES DAVIDSON.

Belmont, Cal.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES :

SIRS:—Some inquiries having reached me about the word *polenus* (*polayns*) 'knee-pieces to the armor,' which occurred in one of the phrases cited from the 'Awnters of Arthur,' I subjoin the etymology. The word is found in DU CANGE under the form *polena*, "*pars vestis militaris qua genua muniuntur*;" *poulainia*, "*rostra calceorum*," *i. e.* the extravagantly long points to shoes, worn in the 14th and 15th centuries, which burgosses might wear six inches in length, nobles a foot long, and princes two feet. CHARLES VI. of France laid an interdict on these monstrosities, of which we have the following account in the Continuator of WILLIAM OF NANGIS (cited by DU CANGE):

"*Sotulares [souliers] habebant in quibus rostra longissima in parte anteriori ad modum unius cornu in longum: alii in obliquum, ut griffones habent retro et naturaliter pro ungibus gerunt . . . quae quidem rostra pouleanas gallice nominabant. Et quia res erat valde turpis, et quasi contra procreationem naturalium membrorum circa pedes, quinimo abusus naturae videbatur, ideo Dom. Rex Franciae Carolus fecit per praecones proclamari publice ne aliquis quicunque esset qui auderet talia deportare.*" POPE URBAN V. also forbade them; but fashion was stronger than kings and popes. The word, according to LITTRÉ, comes from *poullaine* (*quasi* "pellis polonica"), a kind of Polish leather of which they were made. It was applied to the beaks of ships, and the beaked and hinged knee-pieces to the leg-armor. These were sometimes fashioned like the head and beak of a monstrous bird, which opened and shut with the movements of the leg. Of the effect thus produced, an amusing caricature may be

seen in DORÉ'S illustration to BALZAC'S story, 'L'Héritier du Diable.'

The word *polainas*, meaning a kind of gaiters, is found (as a correspondent points out) in CERVANTES:—"antiparas, que . . . son medias calzas con avanpiés, que por su proprio nombre se suelen llamar *polainas*" ("Rinc. y Cort."). VALBUENO derives the word from *polvo*, "which" (as EUCLID says) "is absurd."

WM. HAND BROWNE.

Johns Hopkins University.

BRIEF MENTION.

A second edition has appeared of 'Anecdotes Nouvelles' (New York: Charles E. Merrill). The opportunity has not been availed of to make any new choice of selections, but a few hints are introduced as to the best way to use a text in teaching beginners. These hints are suggestive, and may prove acceptable and useful to many a teacher.

'Antonymes de la langue française,' par A. MUZZARELLI (New York: W. R. Jenkins), is the production of a practical teacher of the French language, the author being known to students of French through his connection with the Sauveur Summer College of Languages. The conception of the book is a happy one and will commend itself to teachers of French as in a measure novel and in every way suggestive. We are perhaps too prone, in our process of *desynonomizing* (to adopt COLERIDGE'S word), to ignore the value of antonyms, with the sharp contrasts and the bold antitheses which they present. PROFESSOR MUZZARELLI'S work is excellently adapted to the purpose of enlarging the range of one's French vocabulary, and of impressing the meanings of words by the very difference which the study of antonyms brings out at every step.

The most recent event of interest to elementary students of Old French is the appearance of the second edition, revised and corrected, of GASTON PARIS' 'Extraits de la Chanson de Roland et de la Vie de Saint Louis,' the first edition of which was reviewed at length in these columns (January, 1889).

While retaining its original place in the Hachette series of *Classiques français*, the entire book has been reset in more compact and attractive typography and presents a delightfully clear and inviting page to the learner. The utmost care has obviously been bestowed on the revision of all parts of the work, the suggestions and corrections of MUSSAFIA, DARMESTETER and others having been turned to full account and particular attention paid to accuracy in the paradigms, references and vocabularies. In its present form, the little hand-book is truly a polished gem of high scholarship, expressly set to meet the desires of every beginner in Old French. (Boston: Carl Schoenhof. Price 2. fr. 50.)

The Eighth Annual Report of the Dante Society (Cambridge University Press; 8vo, pp. 98) mentions the publication of PROFESSOR FAY's 'Concordance of the Divina Commedia' as the most important event to be noted in the Society's activity for the past year. The remainder of the edition, after supplying subscribers, has been placed for sale in the hands of Little, Brown & Co., Boston, and Trübner & Co., London. Under the stimulus of this production a number of workers, connected in various capacities with Harvard University, have undertaken the co-operative compilation of a concordance to the 'Vita Nuova' and the 'Canzoniere,' which may likewise be published under the auspices of the Society. The prominent feature of the present report is a prize essay (of fifty pages) by MR. GEORGE RICE CARPENTER, A. B. (Harvard, 1886), entitled "The Episode of the Donna Pietosa," being a scholarly attempt to elucidate and reconcile certain statements in the 'Vita Nuova' and the 'Convito.' This is followed by a Dante bibliography for the year 1888, compiled by Mr. William Coolidge Lane, Assistant Librarian in the Harvard College Library.—The membership of the Dante Society, as given in this report, numbers fifty-five names, only one of which, that of HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, is marked with the mortuary star. Four of the members are credited to England; while the American contingent ranges from Brunswick, Maine, to Davenport, Iowa, and from St. Paul, Minn., to Washington, D. C. Thirteen of the

members (including one in England), are women—certainly a striking proportion. One of the by-laws of the Society reads: "Any person desirous to become a member of this Society may do so by signifying his or her wish in writing to the Secretary (Wm. C. Lane, Cambridge, Mass.), and by the payment of an annual fee of five dollars." The opportunity to exhibit a personal and helpful interest in a literary cause to which comparatively few feel themselves called, will doubtless be appreciated by some to whom the objects of the Society have hitherto remained unknown.

The neat and convenient shape in which 'Ruy Blas,' by VICTOR HUGO, edited with notes by RENA A. MICHAELS, has been brought out by Henry Holt & Co., renders the book especially welcome for use in the class-room—but not without certain drawbacks. A rapid glance discloses that the accuracy of text and punctuation is not all that could be desired (cf. p. 13, l. 27; p. 31, l. 15; p. 33, l. 12; p. 37, l. 16; p. 52, l. 4; p. 75, l. 25; p. 79, l. 22; p. 82, l. 14; p. 90, l. 15; p. 97, l. 29; p. 102, l. 5; p. 103, l. 2; p. 105, l. 11.) Neither can the notes as a whole be accounted adequate. Against two of them, in particular, pupils will need to be put upon their guard.—

Vous ne me donnez pas du tout d'argent,
mon maître;
Je m'en passe.

Editor's note, p. 109: "*Je m'en passe*—Note the use of the reflexive pronoun. 'I pass that by,' i. e., 'I will say nothing of that.'" Again,

. ont greffé deux blasons.
Moi, je suis le marquis de Finlas; vous le comte
De Garofa. Tous deux se valent si l'on compte.

Editor's note, p. 111: "*Tous deux se valent*—Lit., 'Both are of worth, that is, worth something.'"—Yet these two passages are exceedingly clear, *se passer d'une chose* and *se valoir* being expressions in daily use.

In 'La Fontaine's Fables Choises, edited with introduction and notes by L. DELBOS' (New York: Henry Holt & Co.) we have a little volume containing a judicious selection of seventy-eight of LA FONTAINE'S Fables, which it is a special pleasure to recommend to teachers and students of French. In a brief

introduction LA FONTAINE's life and writings are summarily reviewed. M. L. DELBOS boldly asserts that never has a man's character been more wrongly estimated than in the case of the great Fabulist. Whether this be so or not it is not here the place to argue; but it may be incidentally remarked that LA FONTAINE's character presents too many debatable points to be so briefly disposed of in a few introductory remarks. The notes are abundant and good, and the English renderings of difficult passages are generally happy.

The need of a German dictionary that should be at once accurate, fairly complete and yet popular enough for the general reader, has long been felt. The great work of the GRIMMS and their successors, besides being still incomplete, is too large and too expensive for the majority of students and readers. JACOB GRIMM misapprehended the needs and wants of the public when he expressed the hope, "das Wörterbuch könne zum Hausbedarf und mit Verlangen oft mit Andacht gelesen werden. Warum sollte sich nicht der Vater ein paar Wörter ausheben und sie Abends mit den Knaben durchgehend zugleich ihre Sprachgabe prüfen und die eigene auffrischen? Die Mutter würde gern zuhören."* SANDERS, who is more in sympathy with the general reader, might have given us a highly useful book if the enormous industry evinced in his 'Wörterbuch' and 'Ergänzungswörterbuch' had been coupled with better judgment in regard to form. M. HEYNE, well known as a lexicographer by his contributions to the work commenced by the GRIMMS, now offers us a new 'Deutsches Wörterbuch' (Leipsic: Hirzel; New York: B. Westermann & Co.), which bid fair to combine the best scholarship with the popular features which have given to WEBSTER's and LITTRÉ's dictionaries such prominent places in the educational literature of their respective countries. The part (A-Ehe) which lies before us gives in 656 columns a judicious selection from the list of words treated by GRIMM. There are about 500 words in HEYNE to the first 1100 in GRIMM. The majority of the words omitted are self-explaining compounds. The etymology and history

*DUNCKER 'Die Brüder Grimm,' p. 92.

of each word are briefly given, and the various meanings are enumerated in their logical sequence with numerous examples. While the definitions are, as a rule, clear and adequate, we regret, particularly in the interests of the many foreign students of German who have long wished for a German dictionary in German, that the editor has not attempted to make all definitions as nearly self-explaining as possible. Thus, for example, for the names of plants and animals, in which dialect differs so much, a scientific terminology should have been adopted; the definition of *bachstelze* as "der bekannte Vogel" is well-nigh useless. Nor is a definition by means of a rarer word of foreign origin, *e. g.*, *bälgetreter*, "calcant," very helpful. The arrangement of the matter and the typography are greatly superior to SANDERS' work. The dictionary will be published in six parts and is to be completed within three years. We must reserve a more extended review for a future time; for the present we can heartily recommend the work as the most generally useful of all German dictionaries.

The latest of the annotated Modern Language texts published by D. C. Heath & Co., for the use of schools and colleges, is VICTOR HUGO's 'Bug Jargal,' edited by JAMES BOËLLE, Senior French Master in Dulwich College. The book is provided with preface, biographical notice of VICTOR HUGO, notes and appendix. The eleven chapters of text fill 181 pages, with lines conveniently numbered for reference; while the notes cover forty pages, and call attention to the more difficult constructions in syntax and idiom.

The eleventh improved edition of the 'Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik nebst Wörterbuch zu Der Nibelunge Nôt, zu den Gedichten Walthers von der Vogelweide und zu Laurin, für den Schulgebrauch ausgearbeitet' von ERNST MARTIN (Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung. 1889. 104 S.) shows no advance upon the former editions. Here are the original vowels *a, i, u*, *Brechung*, *Rückumlaut* all unchanged since GRIMM. It is difficult to see how a textbook with so antiquated a phonology can yet be used in the schools, but it seems still to find favor. The vocabulary

has always been a very convenient one; perhaps this helps to keep the book afloat with all its antiquated cargo.

The stock of annotated stories available for class-room use is increased by SOUVESTRE'S 'Le Mari de Madame de Solange,' edited by PROFESSOR O. B. SUPER (Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.). This text, which as a story is interesting though somewhat sudden and unsatisfactory in its ending, furnishes material for filling out a term's work with a class not far advanced. The style is easy and pleasing. The notes are somewhat sparse (two pages and a half of them for fifty three pages of text), but are well put. They are in no case etymological, but either give aid in the way of renderings or cover historical allusions.

'Random Exercises in French Grammar, Homonyms and Synonyms, for advanced students,' by LUCIEN BOQUEL, Librairie Hachette & Cie., 1888, differs entirely in scope and purpose from the preceding. The exercises are taken at random only in the sense that each serves to illustrate some well-defined point in French idiom. It is therefore intended especially for those who wish to gain a more thorough knowledge of the spirit and history of the language, entirely apart from its merely practical side. Words similar in sound or signification and yet distinct are taken up, and exercises given in the use of them. More than one half of the book (the whole consists of 290 pages) is occupied by the vocabulary of Synonyms and Homonyms, a feature to be recommended for the distinctions made in usage and meaning, as well as for the etymologies and history of words.

PERSONAL.

R. W. MOORE, Professor of French and Latin in Georgetown College, Ky., is settled for the winter at the university of Strasburg, Germany, where he is pursuing studies in Romance and Germanic philology.

MR. W. R. MORFILL has been appointed to the Chair of "Slavonic Philology and Antiquities" recently created at the University of Oxford, England. PROFESSOR MORFILL is

the most eminent English Slavist and, since the death of the late MR. RALSTON, has had to battle almost alone for the cultivation and promotion of Slavic studies in Great Britain. This recognition, by the university, of his unremitting activity and distinguished merit in the field of his preference, will be everywhere a source of congratulation to the lovers of the Slavonic languages and literatures. The Transactions of the London Philological Society owe to the accurate research of this specialist the annual reports on the progress and development of Slavonic philology. In 1877 he published here a lucid sketch of the Russian language and its dialects. Some of his further publications are a useful 'Manual of Slavonic Literature' (1883), a 'Serbian Grammar' (1889), and an excellent little 'Russian Grammar' comprising a careful selection of reading material with vocabulary, recently issued by the Clarendon Press, Oxford.

L. E. HORNING, Associate Professor of Modern Languages at Victoria University, Cobourg, Canada, was in April last granted leave of absence for two years to pursue his studies in Teutonic, in Germany. He spent the summer semester at Breslau with Professors KÖLBING, FICK and GASPARY, and this winter is engaged in work on Old English and German with Professors HEYNE, ROETHE and BRANDL of the University of Göttingen.

At the opening of the present academic year, EDWARD M. BROWN was called to Cornell University as Acting Assistant Professor of English, to fill the vacancy caused by the absence in Europe of PROFESSOR HIRAM CORSON. PROFESSOR BROWN was graduated at the University of Michigan in 1880; for four years after this he was Principal of a City High School where he taught English Literature and Latin; in 1886 he went to Germany to continue his studies in English philology, and spent there six semesters, distributed among the universities of Strasburg, Berlin, Halle and Göttingen.

MR. C. FONTAINE, formerly of the Washington High School, has in press the second volume of his 'Historiettes modernes' (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. iv, p. 195), published by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.